(c) if so, the steps proposed to make efficient use of its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Main activities of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., arc shipbuilding, shiprepair and construction of off-shore platforms. While, status of order book for shiprepair is satisfactory to keep capacity fully utilised, there has been capacity under-utilisation for shipbuilding as there are only four orders in hand. As regards, construction of offshore platform, there are no orders.

In order to improve the order-book position and capacity utilisation, Company is taking steps to reduce its excessive manpower and improve productivity. Besides, the Government has recently approved a ship building subsidy scheme which, *inter-alia,* provides for payment of 30% subsidy by the Govt, both for domestic and export orders; permitting Indian companies to raise External Commercial Borrowings (ECB), etc. The Govt, has also approved capital restructuring of the Company by writing off Govt, loans and interests thereon to the extent of Rs. 470 crores and conversion of loans into equity to the extent of Rs.-120 crores.

Schemes/Projects for improving quality and production of Woollen and Silk Textiles in Assam

138. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken and Schemes/projects launched by the Ministry for improving quality and production of Woollen and Silk textiles in Assam during the 8th Plan period; and

(b) the details of targets and achievements;

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) Schemes were implemented through Central Wool Development Board, applicable to all States including Assam such as Integrated Sheep and Wool Development Project, Integrated Angora Rabbit Development Project, Machine Shearing-Cum-Training Project, etc. In respect of Silk textiles, with the co-ordination of State sericulture department Central Silk Board implemented a number of schemes and programmes for development of quality silk including Assam. These includes schemes for expansion of R&D, training, infrastructure and extension of support to the sector through net-work Central Silk Board and implementation of certain development/incentivcs/financial assis-tance schemes for encouraging efficient and modern sericulture practices. A sepcific action plan for the Northeastern Region including Assam was initiated in collaboration with the State Government. In addition, through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) various schemes are implemented in all the states including Assam such as setting up of quality dyeing units, Handloom development centres, decentralised training schemes, etc. No specific targets, were laid down state-wise in these sectors.

Dues of Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Federation on NTC

139. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Textile Corporation has to pay outstanding dues to the tunc of Rs. 174.19 Crores to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Federation;

(b) if so, the details of such dues and since when these are pending for payment;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Government is persuing the matter with the Central Government for the last five years; and

(d) if so, by when the dues are likely to be cleared by NTC?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d) Since cotton is purchased by the NTC mills on credit terms, there are bound to be certain outstanding dues to the cotton suppliers including Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Federation of any given point of time. During the last few years due to acute shortage of working capital, the NTC has fallen into arrears in clearing the cotton dues. As on 31.3.1997, the NTC's outstanding dues to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Federation are Rs. 123.20 cr. provisionally subject to reconciliation. NTC is expected to clear these dues on availability of funds.

Proposals for promoting Handicrafts in Gujarat

140. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the Government of Gujarat for promotion of handicrafts in the State during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of proposals out of them pending or under consideration as on date;

(c) whether Government have prepared any scheme for promotion of handicrafts in Kachch region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent on the promotion of handicrafts in Gujarat, particularly in Kachch region during the last three yeara, year-wise, and the current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b)No proposal has been received from the Govt, of Gujarat for the promotion of handicrafts in the State during the last three years. However the number of proposal received during the last three years from Gujarat State Handicrafts Corpn. and various Non-Government Organisations and the number of proposals .pending as on date is as under:

Number of	Proposals as on	Total Peking received	date
1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	
117	3		
46	47	24	

(c) and (d) For the promotion of handicrafts in the country including in the Kachch region of Gujarat the schemes of the Govt, include: training, marketing programme, exhibition & publicity, design development and marketing development support.

(e) The amount spent on the promotion of handicraft in Gujarat including in Kachch region during the last three years and current year till date is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (till date)
51.05	80.42	45.65	Nil

Payment to the Workers eligible under the TWRF Scheme

41. SHRI RAMJI LAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Office of the Textile Commissioner has received a copy of the letter No. 8 (331)/IND/TEX/ASR/2953-54 dated 17.7.92 regarding payment to the workers of Himachal Worsted Mills Ltd., Nalagarh, Solan, under the TWRF Scheme with reference to D.O. letter No. 6/26VWO&M/31 dated 25.6.92;

(b) whether in this letter it has been communicated that the Office of the Textile Commissioner of Amritsar has iden-